United Nations ST/IC/2009/14

Secretariat

11 March 2009

Information circular*

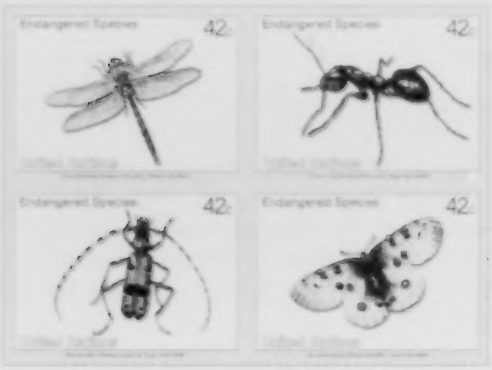
To: Members of delegations and staff

From: The Under-Secretary-General for Management

Subject: **First day of issue 16 April 2009: Endangered Species series and annual collection folders**

Commemorative stamps

1. On Thursday, 16 April 2009, the United Nations Postal Administration (UNPA) will issue a set of 12 stamps depicting endangered species. This will be the seventeenth set of stamps in the multi-year Endangered Species series, which was launched on 3 March 1993 to highlight the need for the protection of species throughout the world that are in danger of extinction. This year, the endangered species feature a variety of insects. The stamps were designed by Roger Kent (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland).



Denomination:

New York values — 42 cents

Endangered species:

Parnassius apollo (Apollo butterfly)

Rosalia alpina (Rosalia longicorn)

Formica rufa (Southern wood ant)

Anax imperator (Emperor dragonfly)

2. The issue will consist of three sheets of 16 stamps in denominations of $0.42, SwF 1.00 and €0.65. Each sheet will illustrate four different endangered species.

(United States equivalents — SwF 1.00: $0.86 and €0.65: $0.83, subject to exchange rate fluctuation.)

* Expiration date of the present information circular: 16 July 2009.

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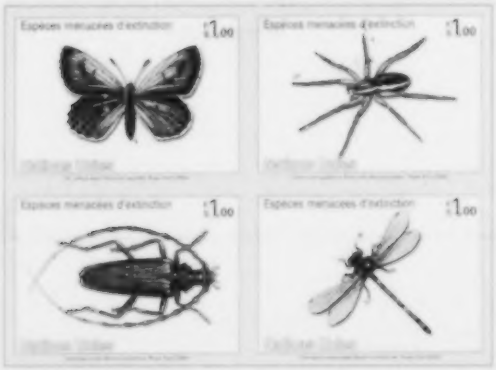

Denomination:

Geneva values — SwF 1.00

Endangered species:

Maculinea arion (Large blue butterfly)

Cerambyx cerdo (Cerambyx longicorn)

Dolomedes plantarius (Fen raft spider)

Coenagrion mercuriale (Southern damselfly)

Denomination:

Vienna values — €0.65

Endangered species:

Trogonoptera brookiana (Rajah Brooke's birdwing)

Pandinus imperator (Emperor scorpion)

Carabus intricatus (Blue ground beetle)

Brachypelma smithi (Mexican redknee tarantula)

2009 Endangered Species annual collection

3. On the same day, the United Nations Postal Administration will release the 2009 Endangered Species annual collection folder of single mint stamps.

4. The 2009 annual collection will be contained in a specially designed album, which devotes separate pages to each of the 12 endangered species. Descriptive information is provided in English, French and German, and each stamp is beautifully highlighted by a colourful array of photographs relative to the species. It should be noted that the Endangered Species series will not be included in the annual collection albums to be issued later in 2009.

5. The stamps are not affixed inside the album, although spaces and mounts have been provided for this purpose.

Triple-cancelled Endangered Species annual collection folder

6. Since the 2009 Endangered Species annual collection folder will contain stamps in all three denominations, special arrangements have been made by UNPA to make available to its collectors the Endangered Species collections, in which the stamps will be affixed and cancelled 16 April, the first day of issue in New York, Geneva and Vienna, as appropriate.

7. The policy of offering triple cancellations for the Endangered Species annual collection will continue throughout the duration of this series.

Maximum cards

8. The thirtieth set of UNPA maximum cards will also be issued on 16 April 2009. Three different cards will be produced to accommodate the three different se-tenant blocks of four stamps being issued. To conform to the maximum cards issued for the Endangered Species series in prior years, each maximum card will reproduce photographs of the species appearing on each of the stamps in the se-tenant block. The appropriate se-tenant blocks of stamps will be affixed and cancelled first day of issue for each respective office. The maximum card with stamps cancelled "United Nations New York" will sell for $2.06. The card with stamps cancelled "United Nations Geneva" is priced at $3.82, while the card with stamps cancelled "United Nations Vienna" is priced at $3.71. Owing to a new uniform pricing structure for all three UNPA offices, all three maximum cards are subject to exchange rate fluctuations.

9. UNPA will sell the plain cards (without stamps affixed) for $0.25.

Special limited silk cover

10. The release of the 2009 Endangered Species series stamps will coincide with the postage stamp mega event to be held at The New Yorker Hotel from 16 to 19 April. To mark this event, UNPA has produced a special limited-edition silk cover. One stamp from each office will be selected randomly and will be affixed to these covers and cancelled appropriately. These covers will sell for $3.95 while supplies last.

General information

11. For the convenience of collectors, UNPA at Headquarters will provide prepared and cancelled New York, Geneva and Vienna first-day covers on the UNPA official first-day cachets only. Members of delegations and staff can obtain these items on Thursday, 16 April, at the following locations:

(a) UNPA sales counter in the concourse of the General Assembly Building: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.;

(b) Temporary sales counter located on the east side of the Secretariat Lobby between the cafeteria and news-stand against the windows: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

12. First-day-of-issue cancellations can be obtained at a temporary United States Postal Service substation located outside the United Nations Bookshop in the concourse of the General Assembly Building from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

13. Information on United Nations stamps can be accessed on the Internet at http://unstamps.un.org.